

St. John's Lenten 9:30 12/24/67

Prelude

*Hymn 154

*Call To Worship (Pg 7 Book of Wor.)

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading #7 Page 561

Hymn 155

*Scripture St. Luke 1:26-35 & 2:1-20

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer & Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

*Hymn 118

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 120

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamentine 11:00 12/24/67

*Processional Hymn 112

*Call to Worship (Pg 7 Book of Wor.)

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

*Scripture St. Luke 1:26-35 & 2:1-20

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer & Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

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*Hymn 118

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 120

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's
lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping.

Why lies he ~~thus~~ in such mean estate where ox and
ass are feeding? Good Christian fear! for sinners
here the silent world is pleading.
So bring him incense gold and myrrh, come peasant
King to own him, The king of Kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard
and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe the Son of Mary.

Call to Worship:

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born
this day in the city of David a saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace, good will toward men.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he hath cared
for his people and wrought them redemption. He has
raised up a strong saviour for us in the house of
his servant David as he promised of old by the lips
of his prophets. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Advent wreath lighting:

Beloved let us love one another: for love is of
God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and
knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God;
for God is love.

We light the first candle for Hope, we light the
second candle because of our JOY. We light the
third candle for PEACE. We light the fourth candle
for LOVE.

For sin is love, not that we loved God, but
that he loved us and sent his son into the world
to be the propitiation for our sins.

Prayer: O God, we are able to love because you loved
us. Help us to share our love with other people and
may we live love all of our lives. Help us to walk
close to you and as that blessed day draws nearer
keep our thoughts upon your love as shown in the
gift of your Son. Amen.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 20, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise

112

*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God of hope and love who dost wait for us even when we forget thee, O God of truth and peace who dost prepare a revelation for us even when we cannot comprehend thee, O God of grace and mercy who doth call us to respond to thee even when we wander from thee, we confess, we are confused by being so busy, we confess, we are too much involved in preparations, we confess, we are tired of man made schedules, we confess, we tend to forget thee in our celebration, forgive us, forgive us O God. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---Matthew 1:18-23--Luke 1:26-38

*The Gloria Patri

*Hymn

101

The Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Hymn of Meditation

102

The Sermon---Advent Revelation:

"What Child Is This?"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response

120

*The Benediction

*The Threecfold Amen

*The Postlude

We will have our children's Christmas Program this evening at 7:30 P.M. Please plan to attend.

The Poinsettia on the Altar is placed in memory of John and Hester Myers by the family.

The Thank Offering amounted to \$31.25.
The offering taken for the foster children amounted to \$38.70.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eby proudly announce the arrival of their first grandson. The proud parents are Samuel and Judy Eby. The red rose on the Altar is in honor of this happy occasion.

The Link family wants to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the congregation for their many cards and well wishes for this Holiday Season. We also extend our well wishes to each of you, not only for a very Merry Christmas but for a healthy and prosperous New Year. May God richly bless each of you.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE DUNCANMAN

THURSDAY DEC 24TH 7:30 P.M. YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.

PENN. GEN. NEWS FOR DECEMBER. PLEASE PICK UP COPY. ALSO THE CONFERENCE MIN. FOR EACH CONGREGATION. IF NOT YET PICKED UP DO SO PLEASE.

ENVELOPES FOR 1971 PICK UP.

JAN. 10TH COMMUNION REV. GOLD.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christmas Program December 20, 1970

Call to Worship

*Hymn

107

Scripture----Luke 2:1-20

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Christmas Story presented in song

Lower Junior, Junior and Junior High Depts.

Song----Nursery Department

Dedication of the Christmas Tree

Lower Junior Dept.

Offering

A Christmas Message

Lower Junior, Junior and Junior High Depts.

The Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn

108

*Benediction

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Everyone is invited to remain after the service for refreshments in the Social Room of the Church.

The offering this evening will be sent to Hoffman Homes.

We would like to thank everyone who in some way or another has helped or participated in the service tonight.

Those who participated in the program tonight were:

Scripture----Dale Link

Piano----Mrs. Helen Lyons

Prayer----Neva Reich

Lower Junior Department

Beth Fry Sarah Lyons

Nancy Link Michael Swegar

Patti Pearce, Teacher

Junior Department

David Fry Anita Serger

Tina Magee Donald Swegar

Earl Reick Daniel Snyder

Dale Link, Teacher

Junior High Department

Lloyd Link

Neva Reich

Mr. Eugene Eby, Teacher

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 20, 1970

The Organ Prelude
*Congregational Hymn 100
Prayer----Mark Bornman
Scripture----Matthew 1:18-23--Luke 1:26-38
Welcome----Sandra Liddick
Song--"Away in A Manger"
"Here We Come To Bethlehem"
Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary Depts.
Poem----Jodi Morris
Poem----Gerald Morris
Exercise--"Five Stars"----Kindergarten
Poem----Dennis Shatto
Poem----Mark Lightner
Poem----David Sloan
Song----Choir
Poem----Jane Kiner
Poem----Gina Steele
Poem----Tom Patterson
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Advent Wreath Lighting
The Sermon----Advent Revelation:
"What Child Is This?"
Poem----"Good Bye"----Tim Patterson
Congregational Hymn 105
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

The Christmas Party will be held after Confirmation at 6:30 P.M. tonight.

The lovely Poinsettias that grace the chancel this morning are placed there in loving memory.

Mrs. Wolpert in memory of Erman.

Mrs. Mary Louise Dowdrick in memory of Honer.

Mr. and Mrs. William Borcharding in memory of Elmer Holland.

Mr. and Mrs. George Achenbach in memory of Florence Carnes.

The Congregation is invited to the wedding of Susan Colleen Gamber and John Wayne Hostetter on Sunday, December 27, 1970 at 2:30 P.M.

The Link family wants to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the congregation for their many cards and well wishes for this Holiday Season. We also extend our well wishes to each of you, not only for a very Merry Christmas but for a healthy and prosperous New Year. May God richly bless each of you.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE DEC. 24TH 7:30.
COME & WORSHIP WITH US.

NEW CENT. NEWS PLEASE PICK UP.

JAN. 10TH COMMUNION REV. GOLD.

What Child Is This?

Text Matthew 1:23

What child is this, is the title of a beautiful Christmas carol. What child is this was asked by the shepherds, by the wise men, and ~~this year~~ ^{too} we ask the same question. As we ponder this birth once again, we could arrive at several answers to this question, "What child is this?" The answer I am thinking of is a miraculous child. He was born miraculously, He lived miraculously, and He died miraculously. His birth was probably the most unique if not the strangest ever recorded. In order to understand the full implications of this birth we need to delve into some of the background surrounding it.

The customs of the Jews differ quite a bit from those we observe. When we read the accounts of the advent of Christ we find that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Then we read that Joseph wishes to divorce her because she is going to have a child. To us this seems strange. But in the Jewish custom this is not strange at all. The Jewish marriage procedure followed three steps. The first step was the engagement. This engagement sometimes took place when the couple were only children. This was usually handled by the parents, or through a professional match maker. ^{BROOKLYN PLAY FID. OR RUF. MARRIAGE MATCHMAKER} Often the couple involved never saw each other. Marriage was considered too serious a step to be left to the dictates of the heart or human passion.

Next there was the betrothal. This could be called the ratification of the engagement they entered into. At this point the engagement could be broken if the girl were unwilling to go through with it. But once the betrothal was entered into, it was absolutely binding. It lasted one year. During this time the couple were known as man and wife, even though they didn't have the rights of man and wife. The betrothal could only be dissolved by divorce. The third stage was the marriage. This took place at the end of the year of betrothal.

Can you picture in your mind how it would have been if

at this birth the news media we have would have been available. The scandal angle would have been played up to it's fullest. Here is a girl who was only betrothed to a man and she is about to have a baby. What headlines this would make. But the unusual or unique thing about this birth is the fact that we are told she was a virgin. This belief has been one of controversy ever since it occurred. Theologians and Biblical scholars have argued both pro and con about this event. Even scientists have given their view point and basically it is one of disbelief, because such a birth is biologically impossible. Whether we accept the virgin birth or reject it will not be of earth shattering importance. We as Protestants and United Church of Christ members in particular, are free to make up our own minds. But I believe this is one doctrine of the Church that we need to be very definite about. I firmly believe that it is something which we need to believe really happened as stated. There are several reasons for this belief which are very important to us as professing Christians.

The first and main one is that if Christ were not born of a virgin then He was and is not the true Son of God. This would make Him nothing more than an ordinary man and simply just another illegitimate child. This may sound irreverent, irreligious, sacrilegious, call it what you will, but nevertheless this can be the only conclusion we can draw. If He was not born in this unique way ^{THEY CAN'T TELL} at what time did He become divine? At what point of His life did God select or choose Him to be His Son? If He was not born this way then isn't it possible that I could stand here today and have the effrontery and the nerve to tell you that I am the Son of God? Why not? Didn't Christ preach? Didn't He quote scripture? Then what makes Him so different from me or any of us for that matter? If He was born in an ordinary way then He was nothing more than an ordinary man. But I say the manner of His birth is what separated Him from ordinary man. Therefore I believe it is important that we believe in this un-ordinary and unique birth.

The second reason for believing this is that if we do not

believe it then we are liars and hypocrites. Yes I said liars and hypocrites. ^{WHEN} ~~Each Sunday morning~~ we profess together our belief by repeating the Apostles Creed, ~~if~~ we say, "We believe in Jesus Christ God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary," ^{if} and we do not believe this then we are liars. We cannot just blindly repeat something like this and not believe it in our hearts, or we are lying to God and are hypocrites because of our lie. It would be better if we didn't say the Creed at all, as to say it and not believe it. If we have never given this much thought, perhaps we should take the time in the next couple of days and go over the Apostles Creed. By this I mean to take it apart statement by statement and ponder each one, to see what we believe about it. Maybe if each one of us did this we may become not only enlightened but strengthen our belief as well.

The third reason we should believe in this unique birth is because we cannot understand how God works and does things. We can look at this birth as scientists do and say that physically, biologically, chemically, or any other scientific way it is impossible for anyone to be born this way. However if we look at this birth religiously, then we can understand it because all things are possible with God. ^{ONE VERSE IN LUKE 1:37 NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD} If we believe in the God that we always talk about, a God who can work miracles, a God who is a creator, then we can believe that Christ was born as stated. God has always revealed Himself to man in strange and unusual ways and if He revealed His Son in an ordinary way then Christ would not necessarily be divine. These then are the reasons we should believe in the virgin birth. We can choose to not believe if we so desire. We can join the ranks of those who do not believe if we wish. But I feel in my heart that this is something we need to believe perhaps more so than many other Doctrines. Now I am not saying that we should not question things such as this. We should do so by all means. But it should be done reverently and prayerfully. ~~and~~. We can question and seek to find the truth but only if we do so with an open mind. Some people question Doctrines such as this with the full intent of tearing Christianity and the Church apart.

This should never be our aim or our goal.

This all boils down to the fact that God sent His Son into the world in a unique way . Whether we believe or disbelieve is up to each one of us individually. So as once again we come to worship the Christ child we can answer the question, "What child is this?", with the answer, a miraculous child. A child revealed by God in a miraculous way. A gift of love, given to mankind. A mankind that is not only unloving but unlovable. This is what God did for us so miraculously. Come to the manger and worship this child. Not as a baby but as the Lord and saviour of you and I. As the man who grew from this miraculous baby to take our sins upon Himself. Let us come and worship our king and bring to Him nothing but ourselves. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Let us pray.